

MEMORANDUM

TO: Service List of Investigation re: Discount Program Penetration Rate,
D.T.E. 01-106

FROM: Michael Killion, Hearing Officer

RE: Investigation re: Discount Program Penetration Rate,
D.T.E. 01-106; Briefing Question

DATE: June 19, 2003

CC: Mary L. Cottrell, Secretary
Paul G. Afonso, General Counsel

On April 29, 2003, the Department of Telecommunications and Energy ("Department") met with interested persons regarding the Department's Notice of Inquiry into increasing the penetration rate for discounted electric, gas and telephone service. Discount Program Penetration Rate, D.T.E. 01-106 (2001). At the meeting, the Department proposed a computer matching program with the Executive Office of Health and Human Services ("EOHHS") exchanging customer eligibility information with electric distribution companies, gas distribution companies and eligible telecommunications carriers for the sole purpose of enrolling eligible customers in discount programs. The Department now seeks comment on the following briefing question:

Please discuss any legal impediment and legal justification for utility participation in a computer matching program with EOHHS that would involve the electronic transfer of all residential accounts to EOHHS for the sole purpose of identifying customers eligible for discounted service with subsequent destruction of non-matching data.

Written comments shall be limited in length to a maximum of 20 one-sided, double-spaced typewritten pages. Comments should be filed with Mary L. Cottrell, Secretary, Department of Telecommunications and Energy, One South Station, 2nd Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02110 no later than Wednesday, July 3, 2003. All written pleadings or comments must also be submitted to the Department in electronic format using one of the following methods: (1) by e-mail attachment to dte.efiling@state.ma.us,

michael.killion@state.ma.us ; or (2) on a 3.5" floppy diskette, IBM-compatible format.

The text of the e-mail or the diskette label must specify: (1) an easily identifiable case caption; (2) docket number; (3) name of the person or company submitting the filing; and (4) a brief descriptive title of document (e.g., comments). The electronic filing should also include the name, title and phone number of a person to contact in the event of questions about the filing. Text responses should be written in either Word Perfect (naming the document with a ".wpd" suffix) or in Microsoft Word (naming the document with a ".doc" suffix). Data or spreadsheet responses should be compatible with Microsoft Excel. Documents submitted in electronic format will be posted on the Department's Website (<http://www.mass.gov/dpu>).

Any person desiring further information regarding this briefing question should contact Michael Killion, Hearing Officer, Department of Telecommunications and Energy, at (617) 305-3619.